

LEDBURY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 1



LEDBURY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1951, which is furnished in accordance with Article 17, sub-section 5, of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935, and Circular 42/51 of the Ministry of Health.

The Report deals with matters bearing upon the health of the population. In the year under review, the health of the town was good.

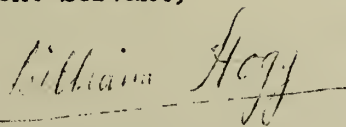
Various birth and death rates given in the Report are based upon the estimated mid-year population, and since the population is relatively small, rates based upon it are subject to considerable fluctuation by small changes in the actual statistics. The use of the rates for purposes of comparison is therefore limited.

I have to acknowledge assistance most willingly given me, not only in the preparation of this Report but throughout the year, by my colleagues, Mr. D.B.W. Dykes, Clerk to the Council; Mr.A.T. Thomas, Financial Officer; Mr. J.F. Lorimer, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor; and Mr. K. Mills, Executive Officer.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity of placing on record my appreciation of the support which the Chairman and Members of the Council have given me in the discharge of my duties.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

25th July, 1952.



LEDBURY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

William Hogg, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,  
M.R.S.I.

CLERK TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Miss A.O. Gale.

Telephone:

Ross 214

County Offices,  
Alton Street,  
Ross-on-Wye.

SANITARY INSPECTOR, SANITARY SURVEYOR AND HOUSING  
DESIGNATED OFFICER

Mr. F.J. East, M.I., Mun. E., A.R.S.I. (Resigned 31.3.51.)

Mr. E.E. Jordan (Acting Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor  
1.4.51. - 16.9.51.)

Mr. J.F. Lorrimer, M.R.S.I. (Appointed 17.9.51.).

Telephone:

Ledbury 5

Urban Council Offices,  
Church Street,  
Ledbury.



SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The Urban District of Ledbury forms a small country town in the south east of the County of Hereford, lying west of the Malvern Hills. It is a centre for the surrounding agricultural district, and is an old town. Many old buildings have been well preserved.

The town is on the main line of the railway connecting Hereford with Birmingham and Worcester, and is a junction for the Newent and Gloucester line. The River Leadon flows by the town, but is here a small stream unsuitable for navigation and of no value for fishing.

The prosperity of the town is linked with that of the surrounding agricultural district. Industries in the town are agricultural engineering and fruit preserving. Holiday visitors also provide some employment.

Area (in acres). . . . .	499
Number of inhabited houses (31.12.51.)..	1112
Rateable Value. . . . .	£19,826
Sum represented by a penny rate... .	£76.3.8.
Census Population. . . . .	3689
Registrar General's estimated midyear Population. . . . .	3667
Area Comparability Factor (Births) . . .	1.05
Area Comparability Factor (Deaths) . . .	0.78

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

Live Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population (crude). . . . .	19.0
Adjusted Live Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population. . . . .	20.0
Still Birth Rate per 1000 total births (live and still). . . . .	Nil
Death Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population (crude). . . . .	15.8
Corrected Death Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population. . . . .	12.3

Deaths from Maternal Causes.

Heading No.30	Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion.	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 total births.</u>
		Nil	Nil



Death Rates of Infants under One Year of Age.

All Infants per 1000 live births.	...	42.9
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births.	...	44.8
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births.	...	Nil

Population.

The Census population for the Urban District is 3689, which is to be compared with the previous census year (1931) of 3284.

The Registrar General's estimate of the resident mid-year population is 3676 which compares with 3780 for the year 1950. Using the estimated resident population, the average number of persons per inhabited house is 3.3 and the average number of persons per acre is 7.36. The average number of inhabited houses per acre is 2.22. The natural increase of population, that is the excess of live births over deaths is 12. The natural increase of population for the previous year was 10.

Births.

The total number of live births occurring in the resident population is 70 (37 male and 33 female). The crude live birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population is 19.0 and, using the comparability factor of 1.05 the adjusted birth rate is 20.0 per 1000 estimated resident population. The corrected live birth rate for the previous year was 17.7 per 1000 population.

The live birth rate for England and Wales for 1951 is 15.5 per 1000 population, so that the rate for the Urban District remains somewhat higher. The ratio of male/female births is 1.12.

The number of live births occurring out of wedlock was 3 (1 male and 2 female); this number being identical with that of the previous year. The illegitimate live births formed 4.4% of the total live births. The illegitimate live birth rate is 0.82 per 1000 population.

Stillbirths.

This year no stillbirths occurred and the rate per 1000 total (live and still) births is nil. During the year 1950 two still births occurred.

The stillbirth rate for the year for England and Wales is 0.36 per 1000 population.



Deaths.

After deducting the number of deaths of non-residents who died within the area and adding the number of deaths of residents which occurred outside the area, the total number of deaths allocated is 58 (27 male and 31 female). The number of deaths registered during 1950 was 53.

The crude death rate for the area is 15.8 per 1000 estimated resident population. Using the area comparability factor of 0.78 the corrected death rate is 12.3 per 1000 resident population. The death rate for the year for England and Wales is 12.5 per 1000 population. The ratio male/female deaths is 0.87.

The commonest single cause of death is vascular disease of the nervous system, giving rise to 13 deaths (5 male and 8 female) with an adjusted death rate from this cause of 2.71 per 1000 population. All forms of heart disease (headings Nos. 18, 19 and 20) together give rise to 13 deaths.

Table of Causes of Death according to Sex  
and Mortality Rates.

No.	Cause.	Male.	Fe- male.	Per- sons.	Correct D.R. per 1000 Popln.
8.	Measles.	-	1	1	0.21
10.	Malignant neoplasm - stomach.	1	-	1	0.21
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms.	5	1	6	1.27
17.	Vascular lesions of Nervous System.	5	8	13	2.71
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	2	-	2	0.42
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	2	1	3	0.63
20.	Other heart diseases.	2	6	8	1.68
21.	Other circulatory disease.	2	1	3	0.63
22.	Influenza.	1	2	3	0.63
23.	Pneumonia.	1	-	1	0.21
24.	Bronchitis.	1	2	3	0.63
26.	Ulcer of stomach & duodenum.	1	1	2	0.42
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	1	1	0.21
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate.	2	-	2	0.42
31.	Congenital malformations.	-	1	1	0.21
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	2	5	7	1.49
33.	Motor vehicle accidents.	-	1	1	0.21
All Causes.		27	31	58	12.19

Cancer Deaths.

The number of deaths caused by cancer of all sites is 7 (6 male and 1 female), giving a corrected death rate from this cause of 1.49 per 1000 estimated population. In the previous year, 9 deaths were caused by cancer of all sites.

Deaths due to notifiable Infectious Disease.

Measles and pneumonia are the only acute notifiable diseases which caused death. One female died from measles, and there was a male death attributed to pneumonia. The corrected death rates from these diseases are 0.21 per 1000 population.

Tuberculosis Deaths.

There were no deaths attributed to pulmonary tuberculosis, and the tuberculosis death rate is nil. The tuberculosis death rate for England and Wales is 0.31 per 1000 population.

Infant Mortality.

There were three deaths of infants under one year of age (1 male and 2 female), so that the infant mortality rate is 42.9 per 1000 live births. The infant mortality rate for England and Wales for the year is 29.6 per 1000 live births.

Neonatal Mortality.

Two babies died within the first four weeks of life.

SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

The Public Health Laboratory at the County Hospital, Hereford, a unit of the Public Health Laboratory Service, continued to provide the usual clinical laboratory facilities with every satisfaction.

The following table shows the number of various specimens examined at the Laboratory on behalf of the Department:-

Sputa.	...	2
Faeces.	...	15
Milk (Methylene Blue Test).	...	2
Milk (Biological).	...	1
Cake (for organisms).	...	1
Water (Bacteriological).	...	3
		<u>24</u>

Investigations carried out at the Laboratory for medical practitioners within the area are not included in the above table.

Hospital Facilities.

General. The Ledbury Cottage Hospital, situated in the town, is a cottage hospital of 12 beds, and is provided with a surgical theatre and an x-ray apparatus. It provides accommodation for both surgical and medical cases.

Infectious Disease. Accommodation is available for the treatment of infectious Disease at the Stretton Sugwas Hospital, Hereford, and at the County Hospital, Hereford.

Ambulance Facilities.

A motor ambulance is maintained at the Court House Depot by the Home Ambulance Service Joint Committee of the Order of St. John and the British Red Cross Society. This functions as part of the ambulance service provided by the Local Health Authority.

Home for Aged Persons.

The County Council maintain Belle Orchard House as a home for aged persons.

Clinics.

Infant Welfare. An Infant Welfare Clinic is held every alternate Tuesday afternoon at the Church Room in Market Street. This is provided by a voluntary Committee with assistance from the County Council.

School Clinic. A County Council School Clinic is held every Tuesday and Friday morning at 10 a.m. at the Court House premises for the treatment of minor ailments in schoolchildren.

Public Mortuary.

The new public mortuary meets a need long experienced in the Town, and surrounding Rural District. Six bodies were brought to the mortuary during the year.

Disposal of the Dead.

One burial was carried out by the Council during the year under Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

Persons in need of Care and Protection. (Section 47, National Assistance Act, 1948).

One investigation was made under this section respecting a male person. This person was admitted to hospital voluntarily and no action under this section was necessary.



SECTION C - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Geology.

The town is situated on Old Red Sandstone, which is here represented as red marl with occasional bands of sandstone. To the east of the town outcrops of upper silurian rocks occur, chiefly Ludlow and Wenlock limestones. These formations do not, in this area, lend themselves to the provision of abundant water supplies.

Water Supply.

The town is supplied chiefly by means of the Council's piped supply, although there are still some private shallow wells in use as domestic supplies. In many instances, the waters of these wells are of inferior quality for potable purposes.

The work of connecting to the town supply where a well is found to be polluted commenced in 1948 and is being continued. During the year 7 new water supplies were provided.

The Council's mains are divided into two systems. The high pressure system supplying the higher part of the town, and the low pressure system supplying the remainder. But these two systems can be connected so that water from the high pressure system can be fed into the low pressure system.

The water supplying the low pressure system under normal conditions is derived from the Conygree Reservoir (100,000 gallons capacity), which collects springs in Conygree Wood and the vicinity originating from what appears to be Wenlock limestone. These springs are land springs dependent upon local rainfall. No pumping plant is needed for this supply, and a chlorinator is installed. When the Conygree springs diminish in dry periods, the reservoir is maintained by feeding from the high pressure system. Too much reliance should not, in my opinion, be placed upon the low pressure system chlorinator.

The high pressure system uses water pumped from Massington Well to the reservoir at Cross Hands, and the supply then gravitates to the town. Continuous automatic chlorination is applied to the rising main. Automatic electric pumps are used and the installation has given very satisfactory service. A bulk supply of water can be obtained from the Malvern Urban District Council's supply, originating from boreholes in the new Red Sandstone at Bromsberrow. This is used chiefly to augment the Council's supplies in periods of dry weather.

The water supply was adequate in quantity throughout the year, in all parts of the town. The quality of water supplied from the mains is of good potable quality.

The number of dwellings connected to the water mains by means of service pipes is 809, whilst a further 109 dwellings are supplied from mains by standpipes. From these figures it will be seen that 94 dwellings still depend upon shallow wells; an unsatisfactory mode of supply as these are very prone to pollution. It is the policy of the Department to secure connection to the mains wherever possible.

The net average daily consumption of water for the Urban District during the year 1951 was 80,000 gallons per day. On the estimated resident population this gives an average daily consumption of 24.2 gallons per head. The town water does not appear to have any solvent action upon metals. This may be due to the amount of hardness present.

### Drainage.

The town has a system of public sewers which receives the drainage of almost the whole of the town. The system is old, and the exact course and condition of all the sewers are probably not known; nevertheless the system functions fairly satisfactorily.

The sewers are of the combined type, taking both storm water and foul water, and connect partly to a series of crude settlement tanks and partly to the sewage disposal works. These works are old and are quite inadequate for the proper treatment of the sewage at the present time. As a result, the effluent passing into the River Leadon causes deoxygenation of the water in the river.

The Council has instructed a Consulting Engineer to prepare a scheme for new sewage disposal works, but at the time of writing, the preparation of this scheme is not yet complete.

No extensions were made to any public or private sewers during the year. No new work was carried out at the Council's sewage disposal works.

There were 34 new drains constructed in connection with dwelling houses, and 3 in connection with other premises, making a total of 37 new drains. The Sanitary Inspector carried out 38 drain tests and one existing drain was found to be in need of reconstruction.

### Public Conveniences.

Public conveniences are provided in the centre of the town by the Council. These are suitably situated and maintained in a good state with some difficulty. Damage of the premises is a problem of some significance. Fifty inspections of these premises were made during the year.

### Rivers and Streams.

The River Leadon, a tributary of the River Severn, forms part of the western boundary of the Urban District. Here, the river is a small stream which tends to flood its banks in the winter months. Such floods, at times, involve the land used for irrigation at the existing sewage disposal works.

The condition of the river below the town is not entirely satisfactory; discolouration is sometimes present and the stream appears to be devoid of fish life, especially in the drier months when the flow diminishes.

An improvement in the effluent put into the Leadon will no doubt, cause some change in the present condition, and a suitable scheme, so far as the Council is concerned, is under preparation.

### Closet Accommodation.

About half the dwellings in the town are provided with efficient water closets, whilst the other half depend upon slop-closets; there being altogether approximately 1,030 water closets in the town. There are 5 pail closets still in use, but no privies are now in existence. The number of new water closets provided was 32.



### Public Cleansing.

There is a weekly collection of domestic refuse in the District. The collection is made by the Council with a covered refuse vehicle. The Council does not undertake to collect trade refuse, there being little need for this. The refuse is tipped on flat ground by a partially controlled tipping system.

There are no public Baths or Washhouses situated within the area.

The Surveyor maintains the public roads in a cleanly state.

Cesspools are cleansed by the Council when required, at special charges. Cleaning of privies does not arise.

Provision of dustbins by occupiers and owners is much improved, and is satisfactory at the present time.

### Cleansing Byelaws.

Byelaws respecting the cleansing of pavements, etc. are in operation in the area.

### Swimming Baths.

The small open air swimming pool owned by the Council, was open to the public during the summer months on payment. The water is taken from the town mains. A purification plant was provided at the beginning of the year. This has greatly improved the swimming pool, but a number of minor improvements and works of maintenance should be carried out.

Two samples of water were submitted for examination during the year, and both were found to be sterile on bacteriological examination - giving a measure of the efficiency of the purification plant.

### Shops and Offices.

No action was necessary by the Department under the Public Health Act, 1936. The number of shop inspections made was 40.

### Camping Sites.

No sites were used for camping purposes during the year, and no licences for camping were granted by the Local Authority.

### Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No infestation of Council dwellings by bed bugs came to the notice of the Department during the year, but one other dwelling was found to be infested with these pests, and disinfested by the Local Authority with the liquid insecticide known as "Clymax". Disinfestation of the belongings of tenants before removal to Council houses was not required.



Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

I am indebted to Mr. J.F. Lorrimer, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, for the following statement furnished under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:-

Inspections

Animals	...	...	...	...	3
Bakehouses...	...	...	...	...	8
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	1
Dairies	...	...	...	...	12
Filthy and Verminous Premises..	...	...	...	...	6
Factories (without mechanical power)	...	...	...	...	15
Factories with mechanical power.	...	...	...	...	52
Food Handling Byelaws....	...	...	...	...	40
Housing	...	...	...	...	45
Ice Cream (Registered Premises).	...	...	...	...	20
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	50
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	616
Shops	...	...	...	...	40
Swimming Baths and Pools.	...	...	...	...	24
Unsound Food.	...	...	...	...	27
Water Supply.	...	...	...	...	7

Notices Issued.

Informal	...	...	...	...	4
Statutory re housing	...	...	...	...	Nil
Statutory under other Acts.	...	...	...	...	26

Summary of Defects Remedied.

Drains repaired....	...	...	...	1
Defective roofs repaired.	...	...	...	1
Defective eaves and gutters repaired.	...	...	...	1
Defective windows repaired.	...	...	...	1
Closets repaired...	...	...	...	1
Paving repaired....	...	...	...	1
New sinks provided.	...	...	...	8
Sanitary fittings provided	...	...	...	9
Water supplies provided..	...	...	...	7

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

The number of factories with mechanical power registered with the Local Authority at the end of the year was 34, whilst the number without mechanical power was 9. The former were inspected on 52 occasions and the latter on 15 occasions. Two defects were reported by H.M. Inspector of Factories respecting defective sanitary conveniences.

There are no outworkers registered with the Local Authority.

Factory Form 572 (Revised)

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1951 for the Urban District of Ledbury in the County of Herefordshire.

Part I of Act

1. Inspections made for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspect-ions.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities.	9	15	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	34	52	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (except outworkers premises).	2	6	-	-
Totals	45	73	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instit'd.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Sanitary Conveniences unsuitable or defective.	-	-	-	2	-
Total	-	-	-	2	-

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

One of the Council's outdoor staff carries out the duties of Pests Officer as part of his normal work. The District is inspected regularly and where infestation is found treatment is carried out by the Council, where necessary. The sewers are treated twice a year in accordance with the Ministry's requirements.

## (a) Infestations.

	Total.	Notified by Occupier.	Otherwise discovered.	Rats		Mice
				Major	Minor	
Local Authority's Properties.	4	-	4	-	4	-
Dwelling Houses.	18	2	16	-	18	-
Business Premises.	11	4	7	-	11	-
Agricult- ural Properties.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	33	6	27	-	33	-

## (b) Measures of Control.

	Property inspect- ed.	No. of Inspect- ions.	Informal Notice served.	Notices served under Section 4.	Treatment carried out.
L.A. Properties.	4	16	-	-	4
Dwelling Houses.	112	450	-	-	18
Business Premises.	46	150	-	-	11
Agricultural Properties.	-	-	-	-	-
Total	162	616	-	-	33

SECTION D - HOUSING

Some further progress was made in the housing of the inhabitants during the year, but the demand for dwellings continues to be far in excess of the supply available.

The Council were able to complete 16 permanent houses and 17 Local Authority Houses were under construction but incomplete at the end of the year.

Private owners contributed 1 completed dwelling house during the year, and a further house was under construction but incomplete at the end of the year.

The erection of more new dwellings continues to be the greatest need of the area, and until the supply begins to overtake the demand no real progress in housing will be made, for in addition to families without homes, there remains the families at present housed in old and dilapidated dwellings, deficient in reasonable amenities, and the rehousing of those families who have been temporarily housed at the former prisoner of war Camp in Gloster Road. Many of these buildings are now showing signs of advanced dilapidation.



Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). ... ..	45
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the above purpose. ... ..	67
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1a above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932.... ..	Nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the above purpose. ... ..	Nil
3.		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	6
4.		Number of dwelling houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. ... ..	24

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers. ...	12
--	----

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

1.		Proceedings under Sections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
	(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. ... ..	Nil
	(b)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
		(i) By Owners. ... ..	Nil
		(ii) By Local Authority in default of Owners. ... ..	Nil
2.		Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
	(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. ... ..	26
	(b)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
		(i) By Owners. ... ..	26
		(ii) By Local Authority in default of Owners. ... ..	Nil

3. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.
  - (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. ... Nil
  - (b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.... Nil
4. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.
  - (a) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. ... Nil
  - (b) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. Nil

Housing Act 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

- (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year. ... 6
- (b) Number of families dwelling therein. ... 8
- (c) Number of persons dwelling therein. ... 51
- (d) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year. ... Nil
- (e) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. ... 2
- (f) Number of persons concerned in (e) above. 13

Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1949.

- Section 2. The number of demolition orders quashed as a result of the erection of works rendering dwellings fit for habitation. Nil
- Section 4.
  - (a) The number of new dwellings provided by construction, with the aid of money advanced by the Local Authority. Nil
  - (b) The number of new dwellings provided by conversion of existing buildings, with the aid of money advanced by the Local Authority. ... Nil
- Section 15.
  - (a) The number of dwellings provided by the Local Authority by the conversion of houses or other buildings. ... Nil
  - (b) The number of dwellings improved by the Local Authority. ... Nil
- Section 20.
  - (a) The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the provision of dwellings by conversion of buildings. Nil
  - (b) The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the improvement of dwellings. ... Nil

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk.

The number of milk distributors registered with the Council at the beginning of the year was 4, and there were 4 distributors registered at the end of the year.

One supplementary licence was issued for the sale of pasteurised tuberculin tested milk.

The effluent from a dairy continued to be observed during the year but no action was taken by the Department.

There was no evidence of milk-borne disease having occurred in any of the inhabitants of the town at any time during the year. Two samples of milk were sent for methylene blue and phosphatase test, and one sample was sent for biological examination. All these samples were found to be satisfactory.

No action was necessary by the Department under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Ice Cream.

There are now no premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream within the area, but the number registered for the sale and storage of this food increased during the year from 9 to 10.

No action was necessary by the Department during the year, and there was no evidence that this food at any time caused disease in man. The number of inspections of these premises was 20.

Water Cress.

A small sale of this foodstuff takes place during the season, but no action was necessary by the Department. This plant grows in a number of places adjacent to the town, and is gathered and consumed without apparent ill effects. The cress supplied by the greengrocers in the town is purchased from wholesalers or recognised local sources.

Shell Fish.

The sale of shell fish in the town is insignificant at the present time, and no action was necessary.

Meat.

All fresh meat sold within the town is obtained from the City Abattoir at Hereford, and as a result of inspection carried out there, unsound meat is not brought into the area. Nevertheless, meat exposed or intended for sale is inspected by the sanitary inspector.

There are no slaughterhouses within the town used for regular slaughtering, but very occasionally one former slaughterhouse is used for emergency slaughter, the carcass being immediately removed to the Hereford City Abattoir.

No slaughtering took place in the Urban District during the year.



Food Poisoning.

No case of food poisoning, or suspected food poisoning, was notified during the year.

Unsound Food.

The following list gives the amount of food found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:-

<u>Quantity.</u>	<u>Food.</u>	<u>Cause of unsoundness.</u>
116 tins	Fruit.	Blown tins.
5 tins	Peas.	-do-
13 tins	Milk	-do-
7 tins	Baked Beans.	-do-
23 tins	Pudding Mixtures.	-do-
21 tins	Tomatoes.	-do-
6 tins	Sardines.	-do-
1 tin	Pease Pudding.	-do-
38 lbs.	Tinned Meat products.	-do-
7 lbs.	Fish Roes.	Decomposition.
36	Fish Cakes.	Stale.
9 bottles	Sauce.	Broken bottles.
2½ lbs.	Prunes.	Mould.
4 lbs.	Chocolate.	Mould.
8 lbs.	Sugar.	Contamination by oil.
3 tins	Coffee Essence.	Decomposition.
1 lb. tin	Coffee.	-do-
5 bottles	Pickles.	Broken bottles.
2 jars	Meat Paste.	Broken jars.
1 tin	Mincemeat.	Blown tin.
10 packets	Jellies.	Mould.
1 tin	Herrings.	Blown tin.
3 tins	Soup.	Blown tins.
23 stones 6 lbs.	Fish.	Decomposition.
6 dozen packets	Cream Cheese.	-do-
1 tin	Jam.	Blown tin.

Byelaws as to Handling, etc. of Food.

During the year the Byelaws were enforced as regards stalls on the Market Place. Stallholders selling food were requested to obtain stalls complying with the byelaws. This has brought about an improvement in the conditions under which food is sold in the market place.

SECTION F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The extremely low incidence of notifiable infectious disease of the previous year was not maintained, as 44 notifications were received, all within the first quarter. The District was entirely free from infectious disease for the remainder of the year. Of the total notifications received 40 were in respect of measles. The incidence of measles was slightly higher in females (22 cases) than in males (18 cases), and the age group showing the greatest number of cases was the 5 - 10 years group. The number of dwellings giving rise to one case was 30, whilst 5 dwellings each gave rise to two cases. The attack rate is 10.8 per 1000 population, and one death was caused by this disease.

The Urban District remained free from acute poliomyelitis, diphtheria and scarlet fever throughout the year.

Confirmed Cases of Infectious Disease in each Quarter.					
Disease.	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Year.
Measles.	40	-	-	-	40
Whooping Cough.	4	-	-	-	4
All Diseases	44	-	-	-	44

In the third quarter of the year a few cases of bornholm disease occurred. This disease is characterised by raised temperature and severe pain in the upper abdomen or lower part of the chest. Altogether about 12 cases seem to have occurred, with no special sex or age incidence.

Analysis of notified cases according to certain Age Groups.											
Disease.	0+	1+	3+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65+	Age N.K.
Measles.	1	4	10	22	-	1	-	2	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total	1	4	11	24	-	1	-	2	-	-	1

#### Tuberculosis.

At the beginning of the year there were 24 cases on the register, 23 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary. During the year 8 cases were added to the register, all except one being cases of pulmonary disease, of which 3 represented new cases. During the year 7 cases of pulmonary disease were removed from the register, and at the end of the year, therefore, 25 cases remained on the register, 23 respecting pulmonary disease, and 2 respecting non-pulmonary disease. There were no deaths caused by tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1951.									
Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS				
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
5+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
15+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
25+	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
35+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
45+	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	
55+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
All Ages.	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	



